

Several groups have attempted to reach a solution to the computational complications involved in gravitational wave detection, leaving most researchers predicting that this elusive discovery would be incremental, through an arduous series of small improvements. UTB scientists, however, have contradicted this belief with their out-of-the-box thinking and relentless perseverance.

Despite a lack of equipment and economic resources, UTB scientists utilized the least sophisticated computer systems and relied on their stellar ingenuity to achieve a revolutionary breakthrough, the sort that comes along between every 10–50 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in applauding a group of intellectuals whose vision and brilliance are truly ahead of their time. These south Texans have inspired us today and changed the way our world will see the future.

THANK YOU HERRERA  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the Fifth Grade students of Herrera Elementary which is in my Congressional District for coming to visit us last week on their class field trip.

They came to Washington on their Fifth Grade class trip to learn about our Government and the history of our country. During their 5-day visit, they managed to visit Mt. Vernon and learn about George Washington and what it was like during the colonial era.

They toured several museums in the Smithsonian. The Museum of American History, the Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of the American Indian were all favorites of the students.

On their last full day in Washington, I met with the students of Herrera Elementary during their lunch break. No one knew that one of their most memorable experiences was yet to come.

On our way to the Capitol steps to take a picture, an ABC news crew approached us to ask us if we knew the words to the national anthem. The students and I sang the national anthem on the Capitol steps and the students made it onto ABC's Nightline.

The Students of Herrera Elementary did a great job when they sang the national anthem. They knew all the words and did not miss a note. This was also impressive because the news story on the national anthem stemmed from the controversy over a Spanish version of the national anthem.

Almost all the students from Herrera Elementary are Hispanic and all of them sang the national anthem perfectly in English. They proved that patriotism lives in people of all ages and all nationalities.

Again, I thank Principal Hector Rodriguez and the teachers and parents of Herrera Elementary for making the 5th Grade class trip possible. I especially thank the 5th Grade students for visiting our office and making their visit memorable by singing the national anthem on the steps of the Capitol.

## THE BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand with the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC) and the three million women living with breast cancer in the country today and urge all my colleagues to push for passage of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act (H.R. 2231) by the end of this year.

The bill authorizes \$30 million a year for five years to establish multi-institutional, multidisciplinary centers. The centers would include institutions with different areas of expertise working together to look at different aspects of the issue. Furthermore, this bill would create a new mechanism for environmental health research, and provide a unique process by which up to eight research centers are developed to study environmental factors and their impact on breast cancer. Modeled after the DOD Breast Cancer Research Program, which has been so successful, it would include consumer advocates in the peer review and programmatic review process.

This federal commitment is critical for the overall, national strategy and the long-term research investments needed to discover the environmental causes of breast cancer, so that we can prevent it, treat it more effectively, and cure it. It is generally believed that the environment plays some role in the development of breast cancer, but the extent of that role is not understood. More research needs to be done to determine the impact of the environment on breast cancer, which has been understudied in the past.

Fewer than 30 percent of breast cancers are explained by known risk factors; however, there is little consensus in the scientific community on how the environment impacts breast cancer. Studies have explored the effect of isolated environmental factors such as diet, pesticides, and electromagnetic fields, but in most cases there is no conclusive evidence. Furthermore, there are many other factors that are suspected to play a role but have not been fully studied. These could provide valuable in understanding the causes of breast cancer and could lead to prevention strategies.

We need to enact this bill this year, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and bring it to the House Floor for a vote.

## REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I introduced the following amendment to H.R. 5293 on May 17, 2006 and made the following statement afterward.

Page 22, after line 12, insert the following (and make such technical and conforming changes as may be appropriate):

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) In addition to sums authorized by subsections (a) and (b) to be appropriated, there are authorized to be appropriated to pay expenses for fuel used to carry out parts B and C—

“(1) for fiscal year 2007, \$26,800,000 multiplied by the average price of a barrel of oil for 2006 as reported by the Energy Information Administration, divided by the average price of a barrel of oil as reported by the Energy Information Administration for 2005;

“(2) for fiscal year 2008, the amount authorized for 2007 for fuel multiplied by the average price of a barrel of oil for 2007 as reported by the Energy Information Administration, divided by the average price of a barrel of oil as reported by the Energy Information Administration for 2006;

“(3) for fiscal year 2009, the amount authorized for 2008 for fuel multiplied by the average price of a barrel of oil for 2008 as reported by the Energy Information Administration, divided by the average price of a barrel of oil as reported by the Energy Information Administration for 2007;

“(4) for fiscal year 2010, the amount authorized for 2009 for fuel multiplied by the average price of a barrel of oil for 2009 as reported by the Energy Information Administration, divided by the average price of a barrel of oil as reported by the Energy Information Administration for 2008.; and

“(5) for fiscal year 2011, the amount authorized for 2010 for fuel multiplied by the average price of a barrel of oil for 2010 as reported by the Energy Information Administration, divided by the average price of a barrel of oil as reported by the Energy Information Administration for 2009.”.

On May 17, 2006, I introduced an amendment in the House Education and the Workforce Committee, of which I am a member, to H.R. 5293, the Senior Independence Act. The bill reauthorizes the Older Americans Act. My amendment would help provide relief for Administrations on Aging and thousands of volunteers nationwide from being squeezed by the rising cost of gas. It provides a non-binding formula for calculating annual increases in fuel costs for the three Older Americans Act programs that are the most heavily dependent on transportation. These programs include the in-home nutrition services, the congregate nutrition services, and the supportive services that provide rides to doctor's appointments, trips to the grocery store and to senior centers, among other services. Sadly, the amendment was defeated along party lines by a vote of 23–21.

It is plain to see why these programs have been so successful and so important to seniors. As Americans age, the mobility decreases. Consistent with the intent of the Older Americans Act, these services help seniors maintain independence, dignity and health. In FY2003, the Supportive Services gave almost 36 million rides and provided 20 million hours of personal care, homemaker and chore services. In that same year, 248 million meals were served. Fifty-seven percent were provided in the home with the remainder in group settings. Each meal required transportation.

According to the Energy Information Administration, the price of gas the week ending on Christmas of the year 2000 was one dollar, sixty cents. The price for the week of May 15, 2006 was three dollars, fifteen cents. In other words, since the Older Americans Act was last reauthorized, gas prices have doubled.

We know that when the elements of our lives on which we rely go up in the price, the effect is highly regressive. Those with lower incomes pay a higher percentage of their income for the essentials of life than their